

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 2, please replace the heading and paragraph added between lines 2 and 3 by the September 29, 2003 Preliminary Amendment (i.e., before the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION"), with the following rewritten version:

- - CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/041,557 filed on January 10, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,694,840. The entire disclosure of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/041,557, now U.S. Patent No. 6,694,840, is hereby incorporated herein by reference. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 13 and ending on page 27, line 25 with the following rewritten version:

- - The mounting assembly 124 basically includes a plurality of fixed members coupled together to form a shift operating device housing that supports the winding mechanism 126, the operating mechanism 128 and the retaining mechanism 130. More specifically, the mounting assembly 124 basically includes a main mounting portion 132, a base plate 134, an intermediate plate 136 and a lever retaining plate 138. The base plate 134, the intermediate plate 136 and the lever retaining plate 138 are basically fixedly coupled to the main mounting portion 132 by a main fixing bolt 140 (first fixed pivot axle) and a secondary fixing bolt 142 (second fixed pivot axle) that are preferably parallel to each other to form the shift operating device housing. Various other parts of the rear shift operating device 22 (i.e., parts of the winding mechanism 126, operating mechanism 128 and retaining mechanism 130) are either movably or non-movably coupled to the mounting assembly 124, as discussed below in more detail. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 24 and ending on page 30, line 3 with the following rewritten version:

- - The guide opening 136a₄ is configured to receive a portion of the operating mechanism 128 as discussed below in more detail. The release surface 136a₅ is configured to

selectively engage a portion of the operating mechanism 128 as also explained below. The flange 136a₆ extends partially through the T-shaped opening 134e of the base plate 134 to non-rotatably couple the base plate 134 to the intermediate plate 136. The flange 136a₆ also acts as a spacer between the base plate 134 and the intermediate plate 136 due to the stepped configuration of the flange 136a₆. The mounting hole 136a₇ receives a fastener 145 to couple the control cable 23 thereto. The auxiliary hole 136a₈ is configured to receive a pivot pin 148 (auxiliary, second fixed pivot axle) therein. A portion of the operating mechanism 128 is rotatably mounted or coupled on the pivot pin 148 as explained below. The pivot pin 148 is preferably arranged to be parallel to the main fixing bolt 40 (first pivot axle). - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 4 and ending on page 34, line 18 with the following rewritten version:

- - Referring now to Figures 5 and 49-61, the operating mechanism 128 will now be discussed in more detail. The operating mechanism 128 is a modified version of the operating mechanism 28 in order to accommodate the larger number of shift positions of the ratchet member 54 as explained below. The operating mechanism 128 basically includes a first operating member 160, a second operating member 162, an operating link 164 and a follower link 166. The first operating member 160 together with the operating link 164, the follower link 166 and the mounting assembly 124 form a four-bar linkage that controls movement of the first operating member 160. More specifically, the first operating member 160 is pivotally coupled to both the operating link 164 and the follower link 166 to move along a first arc 1A₁ as best seen in Figures 63 and 64. The operating link 164 is pivotally coupled on the pivot pin 148 (auxiliary, second fixed pivot axle) and operatively coupled on the main fixing bolt 140, while the follower link 166 is pivotally coupled to the secondary fixing bolt 142 (second fixed pivot axle). The first arc 1A₁ has a relatively flat curvature such that the first operating member 160 moves substantially in a straight line. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 36, line 27 and ending on page 37, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

- - The operating link 164 is preferably a thin flat step-shaped member constructed of a lightweight rigid material such as deformed sheet metal. More specifically, the operating link 164 basically includes an operating portion 164a and a coupling portion 164b. The

coupling portion 164b can be considered a first portion of the operating link 164, while the operating portion 164a can be considered a second portion of the operating link 164. As mentioned above, the second or operating portion 164a of the operating link 164 is pivotally coupled to the pivot pin 148 (auxiliary pivot axle) and operatively coupled to the main fixing bolt 140 (first pivot axle), and the first or coupling portion 164b of the operating link 164 is pivotally coupled to the pivot pin 169, which is pivotally coupled to the first operating member 160. Thus, the first or coupling portion 164b of the operating link 164 is movably coupled to the first operating member 160. The operating portion 164a basically includes a main hole 164a₁, a pawl mounting hole 164a₂, a projection 164a₃, and an auxiliary hole 164a₄. The operating link 164 is a modified version of the operating link 64 and moves differently than the operating link 64, as explained below. - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 37, line 26 and ending on page 38, line 6 with the following rewritten version:

- - The pawl mechanism 168 is coupled to the pawl mounting hole 164a₂ and basically includes a pawl pivot pin 174, a pawl spring 176 and a pawl member 178. The pawl pivot pin 174 has a lower end mounted in the pawl mounting hole 164a₂ of the operating link 164. The pawl member 178 is mounted on the upper end of the pawl pivot pin 174 with the pawl spring 176 normally biasing the pawl member 178 relative to the operating link 164. Specifically, the pawl spring 176 has an upper end 176a coupled to the pawl member 178, a lower end 176b received in a spring mounting hole 164a₅ 64a₅ of the operating link 164 and a coiled portion 176c surrounding the pawl pivot pin 174. The projection 164a₃ of the operating link 164 acts as stop member or movement controlling member of the operating link 164. More specifically, the projection 164a₃ is configured such that portions of the operating link 164 do not interfere with the movement of other members of the rear shift operating device 22 and/or control movement of the operating link 164.